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Security Council
Sixty-sixth year

Letter dated 1 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In my capacity as representative of the current Chairman of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the report of the Committee's thirty-first ministerial meeting, held from 15 to 19 November 2010 in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 98 (f), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Raymond Serge **Balé**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 1 February 2011 from the Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa

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A. Introduction

1. The thirty-first ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa was held in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo, from 15 to 19 November 2010.

2. The following member States participated in the meeting: the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Chad, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Republic of Gabon, the Republic of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

3. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa served as the Committee's secretariat. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was represented by His Excellency Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Disarmament Affairs.

4. The following United Nations entities participated in the proceedings: the Department of Political Affairs, the Office of Legal Affairs, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA), the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).

5. Also present as observers were the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States and the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

6. The opening ceremony featured:

- A statement by the Resident Coordinator of the United Nations system in the Republic of the Congo, Mr. Lamin Manneh;
- A message from the Secretary-General of the Economic Community of Central African States, read by Mr. Aimé Mfoula-Nghanguy, Adviser on Political Affairs, Peace, Security and Stability;
- A message from the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union, read by Her Excellency Ms. Hawa Ahmed Youssouf, Special Representative of the Chairman of the Commission of the African Union, Director of the Liaison Office of the African Union in the Central African Republic;
- A message from the Secretary-General of the United Nations, read by His Excellency Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Disarmament Affairs;
- A statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, His Excellency Mr. Alexis Thambwe-Mwamba, Chairman of the Standing Advisory Committee;
- The opening statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of the Congo, His Excellency Mr. Basile Ikouébé;

7. The closing ceremony featured:

- A statement by His Excellency Mr. Sergio Duarte, High Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations for Disarmament Affairs;
- The closing statement by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of the Congo, His Excellency Mr. Basile Ikouébé.

B. Summary of proceedings

I. Election of the Bureau of the Committee

8. His Excellency Mr. Basile Ikouébé, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of the Congo, was elected Chairman of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa by acclamation.

9. The Committee also elected the following countries as members of the Bureau:

- First Vice-Chairman: Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe
- Second Vice-Chairman: Central African Republic
- Rapporteur: Republic of Equatorial Guinea

II. Adoption of the agenda

10. The Committee adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of the Bureau of the Committee.
2. Adoption of the agenda of the thirty-first ministerial meeting.
3. Report of the outgoing Bureau, read by its Chairman.
4. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa.
5. Implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative:
   - Signature of the Kinshasa Convention;
   - Consideration and adoption of the Plan for the Implementation of the Kinshasa Convention;
   - Implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa.
6. Promotion of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa:
   - Implementation of the Brazzaville Programme of Priority Activities (proliferation of small arms and light weapons and disarmament of civilian populations);
   - Briefing by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs.
7. Promotion of peace and combating crime in Central Africa: maritime piracy in Central Africa.

8. Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other relevant resolutions, including resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009).

9. Briefing by United Nations peace offices and peacekeeping missions in Central Africa.

10. Report of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa.

11. Report by the Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on the institutional evolution of the subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms, including ratification of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), and of non-aggression and mutual assistance agreements, and the Central African multinational force (FOMAC).

12. Review of the financial situation of the Committee.

13. Date and place of the next meeting.

14. Other matters.

15. Adoption of the report of the thirty-first ministerial meeting.

III. Report of the outgoing Bureau, read by its Chairman

11. The Committee took note of the report of the outgoing Bureau, read by its Chairman. It commended the Chairman and the members of the Bureau on the dynamism with which they had performed their duties, and, in particular, on the efforts that had led to the adoption and signature of the Kinshasa Convention for the control of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa, the adoption of the resolution on the Committee's activities and the preparation and organization of the thirty-first ministerial meeting, in close cooperation with the Committee secretariat and the Office for Disarmament Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat.

IV. Review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa

12. The working paper on the review of the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa, prepared by the ECCAS Secretariat, formed the basis for an exchange of views among States.

13. The Committee commended the ECCAS Secretariat on the quality of the working paper submitted for its consideration.

14. The review of the geopolitical and security situation of the subregion focused on three major issues: political and institutional developments, internal and cross-border security, and challenges posed by governance, the humanitarian situation and human rights.

15. The discussions pointed up contrasting developments in the geopolitical and security situation in Central Africa since the Committee's last meeting. On the one hand, the subregion had witnessed considerable progress in the consolidation of

democratic processes and the normal functioning of institutions. On the other hand, certain States in the subregion had had to deal with worrisome security situations.

16. Highlights of the period under review had included the holding of elections in 2010 in Burundi, Rwanda, Gabon and in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the preparation of ballots for 2011, in particular, in Chad, the Democratic Republic the Congo, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

17. With regard to internal and cross-border security, the Committee expressed its satisfaction with the current lull in certain conflict areas, but noted nonetheless that Central Africa has been facing a number of threats to peace and security, including repeated attacks by Ugandan rebels of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the resurgence of organized crime and acts of maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and continuing insecurity in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, among others.

18. Member States have undertaken substantial efforts with regard to governance, the humanitarian situation and human rights. They also continue to adopt the relevant legal and institutional instruments governing these matters. The Committee urged member States to take the necessary steps to ensure the effective implementation of those instruments at the national level.

19. The Committee also encouraged those member States which have not yet done so to ratify the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance of the African Union and to incorporate its provisions in their domestic legislation.

20. The Committee took note of the geopolitical situation of each country, as follows:

Republic of Angola

21. With regard to political life, a new Constitution adapted to the post-civil-war period and the requirements of the democratic process under way was adopted and promulgated. Angola also launched a review of the electoral list in anticipation of the general elections set for 2012.

22. With regard to security, the Angolan authorities are pursuing their peacebuilding and internal security initiatives. That situation is conducive to the protection and promotion of human rights and to the good governance necessary to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In signing a memorandum of understanding for peace in Cabinda, the Government of Angola reiterated that it was fully prepared to pursue cordial negotiations with the interested parties in search of a peaceful solution in that region.

Republic of Burundi

23. The Republic of Burundi is pursuing its large-scale efforts to completely normalize its political, institutional and security situation. On the political front, the Committee welcomed the completion of a peaceful and democratic electoral process that culminated in institution-building, from the office of the President right down to the *conseils de collines* (local governing bodies).

24. The Committee found it nonetheless regrettable that the electoral process had been riddled with political tension and urged Burundian political actors to always

choose dialogue and cooperation with a view to ensuring the people's well-being. The Committee thus welcomed efforts by the Government of Burundi to improve governance and consolidate national reconciliation and reconstruction.

Republic of Cameroon

25. The general climate in the Republic of Cameroon since the last ministerial meeting has been one of peace and stability. The current focus of Cameroonian political life is on preparing for the 2011 presidential elections. The country is thus witnessing renewed activity among politicians as the elections draw near. The names of several opposition candidates have already been announced. On the other side, the members of the ruling party keep urging President Paul Biya to seek another term of office. In that same vein, some members of the opposition continue to question the legitimacy and neutrality of Elections Cameroon (ELECAM), the institution responsible for organizing the elections.

26. The overall internal security situation remains positive. Nonetheless, the period under review remained fraught with security concerns, particularly as urban bandits and road blockers (*coupeurs de route*) carried on their destructive activities. At the same time, acts of maritime piracy and, in particular, repeated attacks of small craft, were still being committed in the Gulf of Guinea (Bakassi peninsula and land borders with Nigeria). There is now a resurgence of these two phenomena — which were thought to have subsided considerably — and they are even spreading to areas that had previously been spared.

27. For example, a Belgian vessel and the Croatian, Belgian and Philippine sailors comprising its six-member crew were taken hostage near Douala, for which the Africa Marine Commando, an armed Nigerian gang affiliated with the Niger Delta rebels, is claiming responsibility.

28. As for the challenges posed by governance, the humanitarian situation and human rights, Cameroon made significant strides that were recognized by the international community, including its campaign to combat corruption and hold public officials to a higher standard of decency, leading to prison sentences for certain senior civil service officials found to have broken the law. Lastly, since early 2010, the Republic of Cameroon has been effectively implementing decentralization by gradually transferring national government functions to decentralized local authorities.

Central African Republic

29. Generally speaking, preparations for the 2011 presidential election have dominated political life in the Central African Republic. In that context, the Committee welcomed the adoption of a new timetable unanimously adopted by the members of the Independent Electoral Commission and agreed to by nearly all political actors.

30. The Committee also welcomed the resolution of the problem of financing the elections, thanks to the payment of contributions by external partners.

31. With regard to internal and cross-border security, the lack of resources necessary in order for the competent government agencies in certain provinces to function, coupled with the activity of politico-military movements such as the Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace in the north and the presence of the

Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in the south-eastern and north-eastern sections of the country, have made the security of the populations precarious. In that context, the Committee expressed its concern at the security and humanitarian situation of numerous Central African populations and of refugees from the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the south-eastern part of the country.

32. The Committee took note of the efforts of the African Union, particularly the regional ministerial meeting on the question of LRA held in Bangui on 13 and 14 October 2010. It welcomed the measures taken by the African Union to ensure rapid implementation of the outcomes of the Bangui meeting.

33. The Committee noted that pursuant to the recommendations of the Inclusive Political Dialogue, a disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme is currently being implemented in the Central African Republic. The initiative includes the five politico-military groups which signed the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in Libreville on 21 June 2008.

34. In that connection, the Committee took note of the deployment of ECCAS military observers to assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, particularly in verifying the lists of 8,000 ex-combatants to be disarmed, demobilized and reintegrated into either the official armed forces or their host communities.

35. The Committee welcomed the efforts of the Central African authorities, the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) and the Mission for the Consolidation of Peace in the Central African Republic (MICOPAX1) aimed at the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants as well as other relevant initiatives to reform the security sector in Central Africa.

Republic of the Congo

36. Congolese political life was marked by the Government's peacebuilding efforts and its efforts to achieve national unity. With regard to security, public order continued to be effectively maintained. Similarly, the ongoing national campaign to disarm ex-combatants in the Pool region and recover their weapons yielded positive results, including:

- the recruitment of 250 ex-combatants of the National Resistance Council (CNR);
- the appointment of the President of CNR, Mr. Frédéric Bitsamou, to the Office of Delegate-General to the President of the Republic, in charge of promoting the values of peace and repairing the ravages of war;
- the redeployment of the administration in the department of Pool.

37. On the humanitarian level, the Committee welcomed the ongoing efforts by the Congolese authorities, in cooperation with their counterparts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and with the support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), to stabilize the situation in the northern part of the country, where numerous displaced persons from the neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo were being hosted.

38. The Committee furthermore welcomed the signing of the Tripartite Agreement (Republic of the Congo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, HCR) of 10 June 2010

and the adoption of a timetable setting 20 April 2011 as the start-up date for operations to repatriate displaced persons from the Democratic Republic of the Congo living in the northern part of the country.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

39. The overall situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo had continued to improve as a result of efforts by the competent national authorities. On a political level, the Government was preparing for the elections scheduled for November 2011, in particular by reviewing the electoral rolls. Parliament had also voted on an act on the organization and operation of the Independent Electoral Commission.

40. On the diplomatic level, the Committee welcomed the strengthening of relations between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the two other member States of the Economic Community of the Great Lakes Countries, Burundi and Rwanda. That had led in particular to the consolidation of Community operations.

41. The Committee furthermore expressed its pleasure at the reopening of the diplomatic missions and exchange of ambassadors among the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda and Burundi.

42. With regard to security, the situation had improved considerably, except in the eastern part of the country where armed groups continued to commit massive human rights violations. The situation in the northwest part of the eastern province likewise remained of concern because of the presence of and criminal activities of the Mbororo herders, along with the destruction of the ecosystem. Subsequent to the 20 September 2010 "Regional meeting on the migration of the Mbororo herders: causes, consequences and solutions" held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, by the Commission of the African Union, the Committee appealed to all partners for appropriate support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to resolve the problem.

43. With a view to strengthening security and the restoration of public order, the Government, with the assistance of bilateral and multilateral partners, has undertaken reforms within the armed forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the National Police and the security services.

44. The Democratic Republic of the Congo has also conducted mixed patrols and operations with its neighbours, in particular the Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic.

45. With regard to humanitarian action and human rights, the situation has improved noticeably even though numerous cases of human rights violations committed by armed groups should be mentioned. The Committee welcomed the World March of Women which had taken place in Bukavu in South Kivu province, on the initiative of Congolese women under the auspices of the First Lady of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, to protest violence against women. It also welcomed the continued efforts by the Government to combat impunity.

46. Finally, it took note of the suspension of mining activities in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu, Maniema and the Eastern Province, which had fed into the climate of insecurity in this part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

47. The Committee welcomed the signing of agreements between the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Burundi, the

Republic of Uganda, the Republic of the Congo and UNHCR for the voluntary repatriation of Congolese refugees in their countries and those of the other countries concerned who were living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Republic of Gabon

48. The Committee expressed its pleasure at the general situation of peace and security prevailing in the Republic of Gabon. On the political level, the Committee also took note of the founding of a new opposition political party in Parliament called "National Union" and the holding of the tenth regular congress of the party in power, the Gabonese Democratic Party. It also took note of the desire of the executive branch to revise the Constitution so that it better met the aspirations of the Gabonese people.

49. In addition, the Committee welcomed the fact that the partial legislative elections during 2010 had gone smoothly, leading to a slight reconfiguration of the National Assembly. The Committee encouraged the Gabonese Government to continue the review of the electoral lists with a view to the legislative elections planned for 2011.

50. With regard to humanitarian action and human rights, Gabon had deposited a legal instrument concerning the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2000) during the sixty-fifth session of the United Nations General Assembly held in September 2010 in New York.

51. Moreover, during the second half of December 2010, Gabon will conduct an operation on trafficking of children under the auspices of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) in Libreville.

52. With regard to domestic security, the Committee noted that Gabon remains stable despite a resurgence of urban and peri-urban crime.

53. The Committee welcomed the effective participation of African States of the Atlantic coast, including the countries of Central Africa, in the meeting held on 14 and 15 November 2010 in Rabat, Morocco, and their valuable contribution to its work. At the meeting, the ministers and heads of delegation adopted a plan of action which addressed security and other matters.

Republic of Equatorial Guinea

54. The overall situation in Equatorial Guinea was peaceful. With regard to internal and cross-border security, the Committee welcomed the stability and normal operation of the security services of Equatorial Guinea. It also welcomed the efforts under way to strengthen security in the country in the run-up to both the African Union Summit to be held there and the next Africa Cup of Nations football matches to be hosted jointly with Gabon.

55. The Committee encouraged Equatorial Guinea to continue its efforts to better manage migration flows and to strengthen efforts to combat the increase in major crime in its larger cities. It welcomed the decision by the Government to strengthen the naval component of the national army to enable it better to confront maritime piracy, among other things. The Committee also encouraged the Government to continue the efforts already undertaken to guarantee the rights and freedoms of its

citizens. Along those lines, it commended the acquittals handed down in the trial of the alleged perpetrators of the February 2009 attack against national institutions in Malabo.

Republic of Rwanda

56. The overall situation in Rwanda was characterized by stability and normal functioning of its institutions. On the political level, Rwanda continues to consolidate its democracy. The August 2010 presidential elections took place in this spirit, President Paul Kagame being re-elected for another seven-year term.

57. With regard to internal security, public order and security were effectively maintained, despite grenade attacks attributed to a high-ranking army officer, in exile.

58. In the areas of governance and human rights, the Government has made remarkable progress.

Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe

59. The political situation in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe was characterized mainly by calm, stability, and normal functioning of institutions. The Committee welcomed the fact that the municipal, regional and legislative elections of 2010 had taken place without incident and took note of Government preparations for the presidential elections scheduled for 2011.

60. With regard to internal and cross-border security, the situation was stable, and the Government was in the process of conducting efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking, organized crime and maritime piracy.

61. Concerning governance, the Committee encouraged the Government to pursue its policy of reform of the justice, defence and security sectors, and also to continue its policy of investment in poverty reduction, combating corruption, construction and modernization of public infrastructure and implementation of projects in the areas of rural development and water, energy, education, health care and food security.

Republic of Chad

62. In Chad, the overall situation was one of peace and stability. The Government was continuing to implement the agreement of 13 August 2007, as well as its policy of extending a hand to the rebel forces. On a political level, the Committee welcomed the continued efforts of the new Government to promote national reconciliation. It also welcomed the establishment of the Joint Electoral Commission with a view to the preparations for the forthcoming elections, including the imminent launch of the electoral census throughout the country.

63. On a diplomatic level, the atmosphere of calm with Sudan had been maintained during the period under review. The security situation had permitted the deployment of a joint force estimated at 3,000 troops along the border between the two countries, preventing any cross-border movements of armed elements and eliminating criminal activity.

64. On a humanitarian level, Chad continues to host in its territory over 400,000 refugees from Sudan and the Central African Republic, as well as thousands of internally displaced persons.

65. The Committee took note of the Government's decision to terminate the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) and to effect its withdrawal from Chadian territory. It was pleased at the willingness of Chad to continue discussions with the United Nations Secretary-General on the smooth withdrawal of MINURCAT.

V. Implementation of the Sao Tome Initiative

Signature of the Kinshasa Convention

66. The Committee turned to the signing of the "Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly", known as the "Kinshasa Convention".

67. The member States pledged to take all necessary measures to enable the Kinshasa Convention to be ratified as soon as possible with a view to its entry into force.

68. The member States also stated that they were prepared to implement all the provisions of the Kinshasa Convention.

Consideration and adoption of the Implementation Plan for the Kinshasa Convention

69. In accordance with the decision taken by States members of the Committee at its thirtieth ministerial meeting, the "draft implementation plan for the Kinshasa Convention", developed by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, served as the basis for an exchange of views by members.

70. Members of the Committee formally adopted the "Implementation Plan for the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly", known as the "Kinshasa Convention". The document as adopted is annexed to the present report.

71. The States members of the Committee commended the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa for the quality of the document produced, and expressed their satisfaction with its content. They reiterated their gratitude to the Government of Austria for its financial support.

72. The States members of the Committee expressed satisfaction that the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa had taken into account their comments and the contributions of independent experts who met on 23 and 24 September 2010 at Lomé, Togo, to finalize the Plan.

73. The Implementation Plan for the Kinshasa Convention is organized around the nine chapters of the Convention: (1) purpose and definitions; (2) transfers; (3) possession of small arms and light weapons by civilians; (4) manufacture, distribution and repair; (5) operational procedures; (6) transparency and exchange of

information; (7) harmonization of national legislation; (8) institutional arrangements and implementation; and 9) general and final provisions.

74. Each chapter covered in the Implementation Plan is analysed according to three types of measures: (1) institutional measures; (2) regulatory measures; and (3) operational measures.

75. The objective of the Implementation Plan is to allow the various actors involved — the States members of the Committee, the ECCAS Secretariat and the United Nations Secretary-General as the depositary — each to be aware at their own level of their respective areas of responsibility under the Kinshasa Convention.

76. The Implementation Plan highlights the main activities to be conducted at the national level by the States parties, and at the subregional level by the Secretariat of ECCAS. The United Nations is also involved, in particular through the function of depositary of the Convention that the United Nations Secretary-General will exercise.

77. In addition, taking into account its role in coordination of activities and assistance to member States, the Committee recommended that the Secretary-General of ECCAS should establish and make operational within six months at the latest a Small Arms Unit. It also requested that the Secretary-General of ECCAS should submit a report on the implementation of this recommendation at the thirty-second ministerial meeting.

78. The Committee also recommended that the Secretary-General of ECCAS, as soon as the Kinshasa Convention had entered into force, should develop a subregional programme of priority activities to be conducted in the long term. In that regard, it appealed to international and regional partners to offer any assistance required to member States as well as the ECCAS Secretariat.

Implementation of the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa

79. The Committee took note with interest of the measures taken by the ECCAS Secretariat to internalize the Code of Conduct through a meeting of the Defence and Security Committee of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX). It welcomed the submission to donors by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa of a plan for dissemination and education on the Code of Conduct in the 11 States members of the Committee in cooperation with the ECCAS Secretariat.

80. The Committee also reaffirmed the need for and importance of the Code of Conduct as a tool for promoting democratic governance of the security sector, improving civilian-military relations and increasing the professionalism of the defence and security forces in Central Africa. In that context, it encouraged all member States to implement it without delay and to promote it within their respective defence and security institutions.

VI. Promotion of disarmament and arms limitation programmes in Central Africa

Implementation of the Brazzaville Programme of Priority Activities (proliferation of small arms and light weapons and disarmament of civilian populations)

81. The Committee took note with interest of the briefings by certain member States on the problem of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in their respective countries. They also heard about the measures taken to address the problem in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 2001 United Nations Programme of Action and the 2003 Brazzaville Programme of Priority Activities.

82. In this context, the Committee noted with interest the briefing of the representative of the Republic of Angola. Since the previous meeting of the Committee, the Angolan Government, deeming that the collection of arms from the civilian population is essential to ensure peace, had continued a programme for civilian disarmament in four stages: (a) awareness-raising; (b) voluntary arms collection; (c) forced arms collection; and (d) assessment of all activities carried out.

83. In order to ensure better coordination between the National Commission and the provincial commissions, Angola trained local experts in weapons management techniques in 2010. It also developed an information programme on arms control, designed so that all data on small arms and light weapons (destruction, forced collection, gathering, etc.) would be available.

84. The new legal and institutional framework in the Republic of Angola necessitated a review of the preliminary drafts of laws on weapons for defence, hunting and recreation. The programme of disarmament of the civilian population also reported that a third international seminar was held with the main objective of permitting an exchange of views among various actors including politicians, journalists, religious leaders and scientists on their contribution in combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and promoting a culture of non-violence.

85. With regard to regional cooperation, the National Commission works with the African Union, the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization and the United Nations. On the bilateral level, the Ministry of Justice of Brazil invited Angola to share its experience in disarmament of the civilian population. Joint operations are also conducted with Namibia for the collection of weapons by the police forces of the two countries along their common border.

86. Furthermore, the National Commission conducted a study on the impact of weapons on Angolan society. A reduction in crimes committed with firearms has been reported. Initially planned to last two years (2008 to 2010), the programme for civilian disarmament was renewed for two more years because of its success.

87. To summarize, between 2008 and 2010, 77,585 weapons were turned in voluntarily, and 42,008 cartridges were discovered and deactivated. Almost 329,729 rounds of ammunition and 125,839 explosives were destroyed.

88. The Committee also welcomed the existence in the Republic of Burundi since 29 April 2006 of a national commission to disarm civilians and combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The disarmament of the civilian population is a challenge for the country's stability. The Committee thus welcomed the fact that over three years, the Burundian authorities had gathered close to 80,000 small arms out of an estimated 100,000 held by the civilian population.

89. In addition, with the assistance of the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States, the Republic of Burundi launched the process of marking and computerizing the records of weapons belonging to the defence and security forces, and destroying obsolete weapons and ammunition. Over 9,000 police weapons have already been marked and computerization of army weapons is being finalized.

90. Rehabilitation of armouries and strengthening of the system of storage for small arms and light weapons are under way. As for weapons destruction sites, Burundi had a dismantling workshop for excess and obsolete small arms and light weapons. Nearly 500,000 explosive devices and over 9,000 rifles have been destroyed.

91. Burundi also adopted a law on small arms and light weapons on 28 August 2009. A decree implementing this law issued on 7 October 2010 established the Standing Committee to Combat the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons. Burundi has also had a national focal point on small arms and light weapons since 2003. A national plan of action for control and management of small arms and light weapons and civilian disarmament that will extend from 2009 to 2014 is also in the process of being adopted.

92. After the establishment of the national strategy, a National Commission on civilian disarmament and combating proliferation of small arms and light weapons was established for a renewable two-year period with a view to completing the collection of all weapons of war held by the civilian population. From 19 to 25 October 2009, the National Commission conducted a national campaign to raise awareness and for voluntary exchange of weapons for tools for reintegration into the community. It resulted in the collection of slightly over 2,000 rifles, over 15,000 explosives, grenades, mortar shells and rockets, and over 240,000 cartridges.

93. In addition, in implementing the relevant provisions of the Nairobi Protocol on small arms and light weapons, Burundi is participating in a regional project on regulation of brokering in that area executed by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. This project is aimed at establishing an inventory of weapons brokers in participating countries and developing and installing an electronic registry of legal brokers.

94. The Committee noted that in the Central African Republic, on the basis of Decree No. 06.280 of 1 September 2006, the Government instituted a National Commission to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and for disarmament and reintegration. This National Commission is part of the Office of the President of the Republic and is composed of two subcommissions, one on small arms and light weapons and one on demobilization, disarmament and reintegration.

95. With the assistance of Japanese cooperation, between 2007 and 2009 the Government implemented the small arms and light weapons control and reduction

project. To date it has led to the collection of 427 weapons and 120,000 rounds of ammunition from civilians under the "arms for development" strategy.

96. Regarding the database on small arms and light weapons, the Central African Republic received a machine for marking weapons from the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons. There are plans for a team of experts from the Centre to go to Bangui from 6 to 9 December 2010 to provide training for national experts in the operation of this machine. In addition, a new law initiated by the National Commission is being studied by the Government, and will enter into force once the Parliament has endorsed it.

97. With regard to the reform of the security sector begun in April 2008, the Central African Government continues to make efforts to advance the process, which has currently reached the medium-term activities stage. These activities require significant investments as well as financial support from partners.

98. The Committee further took note that in the Republic of the Congo, a National Commission for the coordination of policies to combat proliferation of small arms and light weapons had been established. The Government was also working to build the capacity of security institutions to control small arms and light weapons. In accordance with the ongoing reform of the defence and security system, several weapons magazines are in the modernization phase. Moreover, the training of managers of armouries is being given particular emphasis.

99. Congo is also promoting transparency in the control of small arms and light weapons through the establishment of an arms registry and a database. The authorities have also made efforts to strengthen cross-border cooperation on the circulation of small arms and light weapons, in particular through the activities of the joint security commission established in cooperation with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

100. The strategy to combat the circulation of small arms and light weapons has led to a significant reduction in the number of illegally held weapons. In this context, among the methods employed was voluntary disarmament, which led to the collection of nearly 618 weapons and 123,086 rounds of ammunition between July 2008 and July 2009. In the same vein, in 2009 the Government conducted a buy-back programme for weapons of war in Pool Department that resulted in the collection of 3,854 firearms, 696 bladed weapons and 176,093 rounds of ammunition of all calibres as well as explosives, all of which were handed over to the public authorities to be destroyed.

101. In 2010, no activities were conducted because of lack of funding. On the other hand, forced disarmament conducted by the police forces from 2000 to 2007 enabled 2,000 small arms and light weapons to be collected. Through their activities, forest rangers were also able to remove close to 40 weapons from poachers, which were all turned over to the police forces in 2005.

102. With regard to the reintegration of former combatants, four programmes conducted in the Congo made a significant contribution to the country's social and political stabilization. The International Organization for Migration and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) reintegrated 8,019 former combatants in 2001, with a 72 per cent success rate. The demobilization and reintegration programme conducted with support from the World Bank between 2002 and 2005

allowed 9,000 former combatants to be reintegrated, with a success rate of 72.43 per cent.

103. As for the Arms for Development Collection Programme conducted with support from UNDP and the European Union which is currently under way, in 2007 it led to the reintegration of 1,991 former combatants. Although the national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme under the multi-country programme set a goal of the reintegration of 35,000 former combatants between 2007 and 2009, it could not be pursued for financial reasons.

104. Overall between 2002 and 2010, with the support of bilateral and multilateral partners, the Government of the Republic of the Congo was able to collect and destroy around 8,244 firearms, 696 bladed weapons and 304,818 rounds of ammunition and explosives. It was also able to identify 50,000 former combatants and reintegrate 36,000 of them, and to recruit 250 into the armed forces of the Republic of the Congo.

105. On the regulatory level, certain relevant legislation was adopted, in particular on the appointment of the Permanent Secretary of the National Commission for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Reduction of Armed Violence. On the legislative level, a bill on small arms and light weapons was submitted to the National Assembly for adoption before promulgation by the Head of State.

106. For its part, in 2010 the Democratic Republic of the Congo destroyed nearly 106,629 small arms and light weapons and 672 tons of ammunition and explosives of various calibres under 100 mm.

107. On 21 August 2010, a ceremony marking the symbolic destruction of the 100,000th weapon was held in conjunction with the official presentation of three weapons marking machines given to the competent authorities by the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States.

108. The Democratic Republic of the Congo reported significant progress in the implementation of the Ottawa Convention on anti-personnel mines. In that regard, 2,694 zones known or suspected to be mined were identified. In addition, 3,296 landmines, 137,592 unexploded devices and 1,438,100 explosives of various calibres were destroyed. Moreover, 6,690,416 square metres were de-mined, while 2,145,628 individuals were made aware of the dangers of mines and 15,251 education sessions on mine-related risks were held. In parallel, nearly 2,411 mine victims received multiple forms of assistance.

109. Turning to the Republic of Chad, the Committee took note of the information provided by the Chadian delegation concerning the problem posed by the proliferation of illegal small arms and light weapons in the country, due in part to the wars and unrest it had experienced between 2006 and 2008.

110. In that context, the Committee commended the weapons recovery and collection operations conducted by the authorities through the National Disarmament Commission established in 2008.

111. It also welcomed the definitive eradication of the phenomenon of child soldiers in Chad, as well as the rallying of hundreds of former rebels on 12 November 2010, who were all disarmed and brought to the Moussoro Education Centre.

Briefing by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

112. The Committee welcomed the convening in New York from 14 to 18 June 2010 of the fourth biennial meeting of States on the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. During the fourth biennial meeting, the participants stressed, inter alia, the need to enhance cooperation and coordination among customs, border control agencies and the police, and within and between States, and encouraged States to enact laws as appropriate and to genuinely strengthen legislation and regulations in order to tighten border controls.

113. With respect to the process of elaborating and negotiating an arms trade treaty, and pursuant to United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/48, the first session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2012 Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty was held in New York from 12 to 23 July 2010. At that time, the Preparatory Committee made recommendations on the elements that would be needed to attain an effective and balanced legally binding instrument on the highest possible common international standards for the transfer of conventional arms.

114. Regarding the efforts to combat nuclear proliferation, the first Conference of the Parties to the Pelindaba Treaty making Africa a nuclear-weapon-free zone was held on 4 November in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It should be noted that all of the States members of the Committee have signed the Pelindaba Treaty, but only four — Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Rwanda — have ratified it. The Committee encouraged the other member States to ratify that important legal instrument.

115. In addition, a Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons was held in New York from 23 to 28 May 2010. At the Conference, the Parties adopted an action plan on the three pillars of the Treaty: nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. They also adopted recommendations on steps towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East.

116. A high-level meeting of the Conference on Disarmament was held on 24 September 2010 in New York to discuss the revitalization of the Conference. The Committee took note of the deliberations and commended Cameroon on its active participation in the Conference, particularly in its capacity as its President.

117. In the context of the implementation of Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Committee welcomed the activities undertaken by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs and the Committee established by the Security Council to monitor and promote the implementation of that important resolution, including in Africa. With respect to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, the Committee welcomed the fact that one of its members had been the latest State to ratify the Treaty. That was the Central African Republic, which deposited its instruments of ratification on 26 May 2010. The Committee encouraged the other member States to ratify this Treaty.

118. Lastly, on 28 October 2010 the First Committee of the General Assembly adopted for the first time a resolution entitled "Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control". The resolution encourages States, inter alia, to support and strengthen the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at the local, national, regional and subregional levels.

VII. Promoting peace and combating crime in Central Africa: maritime piracy in Central Africa

119. The Committee closely followed the statement by the Republic of Cameroon on maritime piracy, which represents a challenge to the security and economy of the subregion and a threat to peace and security for the entire international community.

120. The Committee reiterated its concern at the continued acts of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and strongly condemned the recent attacks, in particular against Cameroon.

121. In this regard, the Committee welcomed the development and progressive implementation by ECCAS of a counter-piracy strategy in Central Africa. It also took note of the progress achieved in implementing the Yaoundé Agreement of 6 May 2009 between ECCAS, the Republic of Cameroon, the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe on securing the vital maritime interests of the ECCAS States and zone D of the Gulf of Guinea.

122. The Committee welcomed the institutional and operational measures taken individually and collectively by the States involved. It expressed satisfaction at the continued operation of joint patrols by some States since the signing, under the auspices of ECCAS, of the first maritime security plan (SECMAR) and the launching of the multinational coordination centre in Douala.

123. The Committee urged the ECCAS Secretariat to establish and put into operation the Centre régional de sécurisation maritime de l'Afrique centrale in Pointe-Noire, Congo, pursuant to the decision taken by the fourteenth ordinary session of the Heads of State and Government of ECCAS, held in Kinshasa on 23 and 24 October 2009.

124. The Committee again recommended that ECCAS should organize an international conference on maritime piracy in Central Africa, bringing together all the States members of the Committee, donors and other international stakeholders. The Committee also recommended that counter-piracy measures should be enhanced by including the project of the Maritime Organization of West and Central Africa to secure the waters of the Gulf of Guinea, specifically through the deployment of coastguards. The Committee further recommended that consultations on the matter between the secretariats of ECCAS and the Commission of the Gulf of Guinea, which had already been agreed upon, should take place promptly.

125. The Committee thanked the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs for bringing to its attention the counter-piracy initiatives being undertaken in other regions of the world.

VIII. Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other relevant resolutions, including resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009)

126. The Committee reaffirmed the complementary nature of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009) and 1889 (2009) and emphasized

that these resolutions are essential tools for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and for peacebuilding and reconstruction in Central Africa.

127. The Committee expressed regret that women and children account for the vast majority of those who are adversely affected by armed conflict and condemned the targeting of women and children by combatants and the infliction on them of all manner of cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, including sexual violence.

128. The Committee welcomed the efforts by member States to implement all Security Council resolutions relating to the link between women, peace and armed conflict, including through the adoption of specific national action plans. In that connection, the Committee welcomed the establishment by the Congolese authorities of the Comité national des femmes pour la paix (National Committee of Women for Peace). It also welcomed the efforts by the Office of the High Commissioner for the reintegration of ex-combatants and the Congolese Ministry for the Promotion and Integration of Women in Development in adopting measures to ensure the involvement of women victims of armed conflict, the reintegration of girls involved in armed conflict, and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants.

129. The Committee reiterated its encouragement to member States that had not yet done so to:

- Designate national focal points on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) from among the ministries responsible for matters of peace and security, including the ministry of foreign affairs, the ministry of the interior or of security, and the ministry of defence;
- Include women in official delegations taking part in international and regional conferences on arms control and disarmament;
- Include women in national commissions to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons;
- Submit annual reports on the implementation of the four Security Council resolutions in question; and
- Adopt programmes of action for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the related Security Council resolutions.

130. In addition, the Committee noted with interest the events organized by the United Nations in October 2010 to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

131. The Committee also noted the achievements of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in the implementation of Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008). In that connection, the Committee welcomed the support of the Conference Secretariat in launching national plans for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda. A subregional seminar for the consolidation of national action plans had also been organized in conjunction with the non-governmental organization Femmes Africa Solidarité. Furthermore, activities had been conducted with parliamentarians, traditional chiefs, women's organizations and police forces to promote

understanding of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region protocol on sexual violence.

132. With respect to Security Council resolution 1820 (2008), the Committee welcomed the commitment of the Heads of State of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region, through the adoption of the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Sexual Violence against Women and Children, to preventing and suppressing sexual violence, henceforth recognized as a war crime by the Conference.

IX. Briefings by United Nations offices and peacekeeping missions in Central Africa

133. The Committee noted with interest the briefing by the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic and welcomed its contribution to the efforts to strengthen peace and security in that country.

134. The Committee expressed satisfaction with the quality of support that BINUCA had provided to the Central African Republic since its establishment, under its mandate in the areas of governance, the successful holding of elections, the conduct of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration operations, and the implementation of security sector reform.

135. In that respect, in addition to the steps already taken, the Committee welcomed the Office's commitment to support the national independent commission for the review of the Code of Good Conduct drafted in 2005, as the organization of election dates for 2011 proceeds.

136. Similarly, the Committee noted the key role played by BINUCA, as Chair of the steering committee of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme in the Central African Republic, in overseeing and coordinating all activities involved in planning and conducting the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

137. The Committee also encouraged BINUCA to continue its close cooperation with ECCAS, and in particular with MICOPAX, which had been given a number of mandates under the framework document adopted on 20 November 2008 in Libreville, Gabon, on the launching of the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

138. The Committee was also informed of the opening of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa in Libreville, Gabon, on 1 January 2011, pursuant to the letter dated 30 August 2010 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

139. The Committee welcomed this information and the preparations under way to open the office, and promised its full support.

140. The Committee urged the African Group of Ambassadors to the United Nations in New York to take the necessary action in the appropriate United Nations bodies to ensure that the office for Central Africa opens as planned in January 2011.

141. Lastly, the Committee welcomed the cooperation between the United Nations and the Central African States and encouraged all United Nations offices and

peacekeeping missions in the subregion to continue providing multifaceted assistance to the States members of the Committee with a view to ensuring their stabilization and sustainable development.

X. Report of the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa

142. The Committee took note with interest of the progress report submitted by the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa. It welcomed the progress made by the Centre in achieving its targets for the promotion of democracy and good governance; countering discrimination; combating impunity; the enhancement of national systems for the protection of human rights; and cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms.

143. The Committee encouraged the Centre to continue providing assistance to Governments, national human rights institutions, civil society, intergovernmental organizations in the subregion and United Nations country teams to help consolidate achievements in human rights and democracy.

144. As regards the promotion of democracy and good governance, the Committee commended the Centre for, inter alia, organizing training sessions for journalists, parliamentarians and electoral management bodies. These sessions were aimed at building the capacities of stakeholders involved in promoting democracy and supporting the electoral process in a professional and responsible manner with due regard for human rights.

145. The Committee also welcomed the initiatives taken by the Centre to combat all forms of discrimination in Central Africa, particularly discrimination against migrant workers and members of their families. In that regard, the Committee took note of the subregional dialogue on migration and human rights organized by the Centre in Yaoundé, Cameroon, from 6 to 8 December 2010 as a forum for the exchange of ideas between Governments and civil society.

146. The Committee took note of the Centre's involvement in combating human trafficking through the implementation of the multilateral agreement and joint plan of action adopted in 2006 between ECOWAS and ECCAS. The Committee recommended that the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, should be invited to the thirty-second ministerial meeting to give a briefing on the problem.

147. With respect to combating impunity, the Committee noted the organization by the Centre, in cooperation with the French and Swiss Governments, of a second regional conference on the theme of "transitional justice: a path to reconciliation and building a lasting peace", held in November 2009 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

148. On the enhancement of national human rights protection systems and cooperation with international and regional human rights mechanisms, the Committee was pleased that almost all States in the subregion had actively participated in the universal periodic review process of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

149. The Committee also commended Cameroon for the A-status accreditation for compliance with the Paris Principles granted to its national commission. It

encouraged the other member States to continue their efforts to achieve that accreditation for their respective national institutions from the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions. The aim of the Paris Principles is to ensure the independence, proper functioning and effectiveness of national institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights.

150. Lastly, the Committee reiterated its support for the Centre's activities and expressed satisfaction with the work carried out during the period under review.

XI. Report by the Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) on the institutional evolution of the subregional peace and security structures and mechanisms, including ratification of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), and of non-aggression and mutual assistance agreements, and the Central African multinational force (FOMAC)

151. The Committee took note of the briefing by the Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States on the development of its structures and mechanisms for peace, security and stability.

152. Concerning the development of institutional arrangements within ECCAS, including the instruments of the Council for Peace and Security in Central Africa (COPAX), the Committee noted with satisfaction the ongoing operationalization of the Central Africa Early Warning Mechanism, which is currently in the structural enhancement phase. The Committee also took note of the development of the regional standby brigade, particularly with the "Kwanza 2010" multinational and multidimensional exercise conducted in Cabo Ledo, Angola, from 22 May to 10 June 2010. The exercise enabled the African Union and ECCAS to guarantee that the Central African multinational force (FOMAC) meets the current standards.

153. Significant progress has also been made in crisis management and peacebuilding through the activities of MICOPAX1, the deployment of ECCAS military observers under the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process, and troop rotation in the integrated police unit. Similar advances have also been made in the promotion and protection of human rights and in conflict prevention, particularly with the development of election observation missions in Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, and Sao Tome and Principe.

154. In addition, the Committee commended ECCAS for setting up the network of Central African parliamentarians and establishing the Committee of Ambassadors of member States with a mandate that includes issues of peace and security.

155. With respect to the institutional arrangements for the perimeter of ECCAS, the Committee welcomed not only the implementation by ECCAS of measures to combat piracy in the Gulf of Guinea but also the increased participation by all ECCAS member States in the Committee of Central African Criminal Police Chiefs, which operates with the support of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL).

156. The Committee encouraged ECCAS to continue to build its own capacities and develop its strategic partnerships with national, regional and international stakeholders in the areas of arms control, disarmament, peace and security in Central Africa.

XII. Review of the financial situation of the Committee

157. The Committee noted with interest the briefing by the Secretary on the financial situation of the Committee and expressed satisfaction that the Chairman had sent an information note to all the member States on the implementation of the Libreville Declaration.

158. The Committee expressed thanks to the Republic of Angola, the Republic of the Congo and the Gabonese Republic for honouring their commitments by making voluntary contributions to the Committee's Trust Fund pursuant to the Libreville Declaration. The Committee also took note of the provisions made by the other member States to include a contribution to the Trust Fund in their next budget cycle.

159. The Committee encouraged all member States to strive to make regular voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund, as set out in the Libreville Declaration. It also called upon other United Nations Member States and donors to make financial contributions to the Committee's Trust Fund.

XIII. Date and place of the next meeting

160. The Committee decided to hold its thirty-second ministerial meeting in Sao Tome, Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, in March 2011.

161. The Committee recommended that the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the Secretariat should continue their consultations regarding the exact dates.

XIV. Other matters

162. The member States recommended that the item on briefings by United Nations offices and peacekeeping missions in Central Africa should be broadened to allow the other bodies that have observer status with the Committee to report on their contributions to peace and security in the subregion.

163. The Committee welcomed the establishment of UN-Women and expressed its commitment to work closely with the new United Nations entity on enhancing gender policy and strengthening the implementation in Central Africa of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and other relevant Security Council resolutions.

164. The Committee congratulated the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on their election to the Executive Board of UN-Women.

165. The Committee requested the Secretariat to consider what status ECCAS could have within the Committee, other than observer status, which it currently has. In that connection, the Committee requested the Secretariat to report on the outcome of that reflection at the thirty-second ministerial meeting.

166. The Committee took note of the special summit meeting on the illegal exploitation of natural resources organized by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region on 15 December 2010 in Lusaka, Zambia. The illegal exploitation of natural resources is one of the root causes of the repeated crises that disrupt peace and security in Central Africa.

167. Following the attack against a Cameroonian oil platform by two unidentified vessels on the night of 16 to 17 November 2010, which caused five deaths and significant material damage, the Committee:

- expressed its deepest sympathies to the bereaved families and to the Government and people of Cameroon;
- strongly condemned these barbaric and criminal acts of violence;
- called for vigilance and for community and regional engagement; and
- requested the solidarity and comprehensive support of the international community to combat the scourge of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea.

XV. Adoption of the report of the thirty-first ministerial meeting

168. The Committee adopted the present report on 18 November 2010. It congratulated the Secretariat on its professionalism and the quality of its work.

169. The Committee reiterated its gratitude to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for the revitalization of its work, as well as for his contribution to peace and security in Central Africa.

C. Expression of thanks

170. The following expression of thanks was read out:

"We, the representatives of the States members of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa, assembled for the thirty-first ministerial meeting, held from 15 to 19 November 2010 in Brazzaville, Republic of the Congo;

"Reaffirm our commitment to the ideals of peace, security and stability that are so vital to our respective peoples and to the socio-economic development of our subregion;

"Commend the individual and collective efforts of our countries to achieve peace, security, stability and development;

"Welcome the atmosphere of conviviality, brotherhood and mutual trust which has prevailed throughout our work; and

"Express our sincere thanks and deep gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Denis Sassou Nguesso, President of the Republic of the Congo, and to the Government and people of the Congo, for the warm welcome and fraternal hospitality we have received during our stay in the Congo."

Done in Brazzaville, 18 November 2010

Annex

Implementation Plan for the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly

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Introduction

The Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly was adopted on 30 April 2010 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo, at the thirtieth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (hereinafter "the Committee").

Upon adoption of the Sao Tome Initiative in May 2007 by the Committee's 11 member States (the Republic of Angola, the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Republic of Chad, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Equatorial Guinea, the Gabonese Republic, the Republic of Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa was tasked with drafting the Code of Conduct for the Defence and Security Forces in Central Africa, what is known as the Kinshasa Convention and a plan to implement the Convention. The Regional Centre drafted this Implementation Plan following a procedure agreed to by the Committee.

In accordance with the decision taken at the Committee's thirtieth ministerial meeting, the Regional Centre finalized the draft Implementation Plan for consideration and adoption by the 11 States members of the Committee at its thirty-first ministerial meeting.

The draft Implementation Plan for the Kinshasa Convention includes a series of activities incumbent on the 11 States members of the Committee, the Secretariat of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the depositary of the Convention, namely, the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The Plan is structured around the chapters and articles of the Convention:

I. Purpose and definitions;

II. Transfers;

III. Possession of small arms and light weapons by civilians;

IV. Manufacture, repair and distribution;

V. Operational procedures;

VI. Transparency and exchange of information;

VII. Harmonization of national legislation;

VIII. Institutional arrangements and implementation; and

IX. General and final provisions.

The implementation of each chapter and article will be based on three types of measures:

1. institutional measures;

2. regulatory measures; and

3. operational measures.

Chapter I. Purpose and definitions

Chapter II. Transfers

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) build the capacity of the national body responsible for overseeing transfers

Regulatory measures

(b) create a form for requesting the authorization of transfers

(c) create an end-user certificate

(d) define the procedure for verifying end-user certificates

(e) adopt or amend national legislation and implementing regulations on the authorization of transfers

(f) define the administrative procedures required to request the authorization of transfers

Operational measures

(g) train officials involved in monitoring transfers

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) support capacity-building of the national bodies responsible for overseeing transfers

Regulatory measures

(b) support the adoption or amendment of national legislation and implementing regulations on the authorization of transfers

(c) develop and introduce guidelines on creating forms to request the authorization of transfers

(d) develop and introduce guidelines on creating end-user certificates

Operational measures

(e) support the training of officials involved in monitoring transfers

Chapter III. Possession by civilians

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) build the capacity of the national body responsible for controlling the possession and trade of small arms and light weapons by civilians

Regulatory measures

(b) establish administrative and legal procedures on the possession and trade of small arms and light weapons by civilians

(c) define the procedures for verifying permits to carry weapons

(d) ensure that visitors' certificates are issued in line with harmonized measures

(e) adopt and clarify the implementing regulations on the bearing of weapons by civilians

(f) disseminate national legislation pertaining to the possession and trade of light weapons by civilians

(g) adopt the standardized subregional procedure for notification and follow-up in cases of lost or stolen weapons

Operational measures

(h) train officials involved in controlling the possession and trade of light weapons by civilians

(i) raise public awareness of issues related to the possession and trade of small arms and light weapons by civilians, including procedures for the voluntary surrender of weapons

(j) include in the national database information on licences or authorizations to possess, carry or trade light weapons

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) support capacity-building of the national bodies responsible for the possession of and trade in small arms and light weapons by civilians

Regulatory measures

(b) develop and introduce a standard template for visitors' certificates

(c) define and enact procedures for verifying visitors' certificates

(d) harmonize and enact administrative procedures and measures for the granting or withdrawal of authorizations for the possession of light weapons

(e) develop and introduce norms and standards for the proper management of stocks of weapons and ammunition possessed by civilians, particularly manufacturers and dealers

(f) support the adoption and implementation of national laws and regulations on small arms and light weapons

(g) develop, disseminate and implement guidelines on creating visitors' certificates, permits and licences

(h) develop and disseminate a guide to keeping records on the possession and trade of light weapons by civilians

(i) create a subregional common system to verify the validity of licences issued to civilians at the national level to possess, bear, use and trade in light weapons

Operational measures

(j) support the training of officials responsible for controlling the possession and trade of light weapons by civilians

(k) assist States in raising awareness among civilians of issues pertaining to the possession, bearing, use and trade of light weapons by civilians

Chapter IV. Manufacture, repair and distribution

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) build the capacity of the national body responsible for overseeing the manufacture, repair and assembly of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, and for licensing and monitoring/inspecting their manufacture

Regulatory measures

(b) issue licences or permits to assemble and repair

(c) implement the legislation regulating weapons

Operational measures

(d) establish production quotas to limit manufacturing

(e) conduct an inventory of local manufacturers

(f) establish record-keeping procedures regarding local manufacturers

(g) obtain the materials required for marking locally manufactured weapons

(h) equip and train local manufacturers, including on marking

(i) conduct inspections of official weapons marking sites

(j) draft and submit to the ECCAS Secretariat an annual report on local manufacturing

(k) educate local manufacturers about the legislative and regulatory framework in force

(l) train officials responsible for monitoring local manufacturing

(m) initiate programmes to retrain local manufacturers or incorporate them in income-generating activities

(n) include information on local manufacturing in the national database

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) support capacity-building of the national bodies responsible for: overseeing manufacture, repair and assembly; licensing manufacturers; and monitoring/inspecting manufacturing

Regulatory measures

(b) define the methods, regulations and standards for marking

(c) define, in coordination with States parties, the procedures for the exchange of information between national databases and the subregional database

Operational measures

(d) record in the subregional database on small arms and light weapons the information sent by the competent authorities in States parties concerning local manufacturers and manufacturing

(e) support the procurement by States parties of the materials required for marking locally manufactured weapons

(f) support training for local manufacturers on marking weapons and ammunition

(g) urge States parties to mark weapons upon manufacture

(h) urge States parties to adopt policies and strategies to reduce and/or limit the local manufacturing of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition

Chapter V. Operational procedures

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) build the capacity of the national body responsible for implementing the Convention, including activities related to brokering, marking, tracing, registration, management and security of stockpiles, destruction, border control and public awareness

Regulatory measures

Marking

(b) devise a system for conventional marking and for security marking

Brokering

(c) develop legislative and/or regulatory measures on brokers and brokering

Management and security of stockpiles

(d) adopt or amend and implement disciplinary measures against officials involved in the theft, diversion or loss of weapons and ammunition

(e) apply the ECCAS Secretariat standards for managing and securing stockpiles

(f) implement a procedure for monitoring and evaluating the condition and management of official stockpiles and civilian stocks

(g) take measures to ensure the physical security of stockpiles

Tracing

(h) apply the standards developed by the ECCAS Secretariat for storing and tracing weapons and ammunition

Registration and destruction

(i) apply the ECCAS Secretariat standards for registering, collecting and destroying weapons and ammunition

Operational measures

Brokering

(j) conduct an inventory of legal brokers who are active in the country

(k) equip and train officials responsible for overseeing brokering activities

Management and security of stockpiles

(l) conduct inspections of official sites used for storing or stocking

(m) equip and train officials responsible for overseeing the management and security of stockpiles

(n) conduct an inventory of official stockpiles of State weapons

Registration and destruction

(o) equip and train officials responsible for registering, collecting or seizing and destroying obsolete, surplus or illicit weapons and ammunition

(p) determine weapons destruction sites and identify and destroy obsolete, surplus or illicit weapons

(q) prepare an annual report on the condition and management of stockpiles

Marking and border control

(r) obtain adequate equipment for the agencies responsible for marking and border control

(s) equip and train officials responsible for marking and border control

(t) organize joint patrols of borders

Public awareness

(u) develop and implement a national public awareness programme

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) support capacity-building of the national bodies responsible for implementing the Convention, including activities related to brokering, marking,

tracing, registration, management and security of stockpiles, destruction, border control and public awareness

Regulatory measures

Brokering

(b) establish among States parties common criteria and terms to define the occupation of broker

(c) harmonize the individual licences issued to brokers to conduct business

(d) harmonize the individual licences issued for each brokering transaction

(e) develop guidelines or a practical guide to brokering

Marking

(f) develop guidelines or a practical guide to marking

(g) propose a standard model for marking, taking into account the specifications for conventional marking and security marking

Registration, destruction and border control

(h) disseminate the technical information available on collecting and destroying weapons and ammunition

(i) develop and introduce standards for registering, collecting and destroying weapons and ammunition

(j) determine the appropriate indicators for collecting information on cross-border movement of small arms and light weapons and ammunition

Management and security of stockpiles

(k) develop a practical guide to managing and securing stockpiles

Public awareness

(l) develop a communications and advocacy manual on small arms and light weapons

Tracing

(m) establish a subregional procedure for the exchange of information between competent authorities on cross-border traffic of small arms and light weapons and ammunition, including within the framework of the Central African Early Warning Mechanism

(n) draft and introduce standards for documenting and tracing weapons and ammunition

Operational measures

Marking and tracing

(o) disseminate international standards on marking and tracing

(p) support the training of officials responsible for marking and tracing

(q) support community disarmament projects conducted through national initiatives or by external partners

Collection and destruction

(r) support the training of officials responsible for destroying weapons and ammunition

Registration

(s) disseminate international standards on managing, registering, securing and identifying weapons stocks in the possession of armed and security forces

(t) support the training of officials responsible for registering, managing, storing, identifying and securing stocks

Management and security of stockpiles

(u) develop a practical guide on managing and securing stockpiles

Border control

(v) provide technical and financial support to States parties in procuring appropriate equipment for their border control agencies

(w) support the training of officials responsible for controlling borders

(x) urge States to cooperate in their efforts to control borders

Public awareness

(y) develop and implement a subregional communications and advocacy strategy on small arms and light weapons

(z) develop and introduce a standard annual report model for States parties on the condition and management of stockpiles

(aa) develop public awareness materials

Chapter VI. Transparency and exchange of information

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) build the capacity of the national body responsible for hosting and managing the national electronic database

Regulatory measures

(b) implement procedures to exchange information with the databases of other States parties and the subregional database created by the ECCAS Secretariat

(c) prepare a report on small arms and light weapons and submit it to the United Nations

Operational measures

(d) create and launch a national databank on small arms and light weapons

(e) acquire the material and human resources required to manage the national database

(f) record relevant information in the national database, including on transfers

(g) submit relevant data to the subregional database and share data on possession by civilians

(h) prepare an annual report on management of the database

(i) prepare an annual report on transfers

(j) submit data on transfers to the subregional database

(k) establish and maintain cooperation with external partners on arms transfer issues

(l) raise awareness among all competent national bodies of the need for internal cooperation within States

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) support capacity-building of the national bodies responsible for hosting and managing national electronic databases

Regulatory measures

(b) determine, in coordination with States parties, the process by which the subregional database on small arms and light weapons and the database on weapons used in peacekeeping operations will be established and managed and the areas they will cover

(c) define and introduce the procedures for exchanging information between the databases of States parties

(d) develop and introduce a practical guide on recordkeeping using databases and registers

(e) determine the type of software and equipment to be used by States parties to establish their national databases and provide such material accordingly

(f) obtain the materials required to establish the two subregional databases

(g) develop and introduce a template for preparing reports

Operational measures

(h) support States parties in obtaining the technical resources required to establish national databases and conduct training at the national level

(i) create and operationalize the subregional database on small arms and light weapons and the subregional database on weapons used in peacekeeping operations

(j) obtain the materials and human resources required to manage the two subregional databases

(k) develop and submit an annual report to the heads of State and Government on the management of the subregional database on small arms and light weapons and the subregional database on weapons used in peacekeeping operations, including information on end-user certificates, transfers, licences, brokers, purchases and manufacturers

(l) in the interest of strengthening implementation of the Convention, establish dialogue with international weapons manufacturers and suppliers, including through official visits to their headquarters, including those of the Wassenaar Arrangement and other suppliers

(m) officially inform the Secretariat of the Wassenaar Arrangement and other international weapons suppliers of the adoption and signing of the Convention

(n) sign memorandums of understanding with the Wassenaar Arrangement and other international weapons suppliers

(o) assist States parties with drafting reporting

(p) consolidate States parties' annual reports on transfers

(q) urge States parties to establish a system for mutual legal assistance on issues related to: sources and supply routes of weapons, means of transport and financial support available; criminal groups and networks of illicit trafficking in weapons; and the conviction of individuals or legal entities involved in illicit activities linked to small arms and light weapons.

Chapter VII. Harmonization of national legislation

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) create or build the capacity of the national bodies responsible for implementing legislation

Regulatory measures

(b) amend, update, harmonize and adopt national legislation to bring it in line with the relevant provisions of the Convention

Operational measures

(c) conduct a review of national laws regulating small arms and light weapons in the context of the Convention

(d) educate the authorities and defence and security forces on the provisions of the Convention

(e) increase the visibility of the body responsible for implementing the Convention and strengthen its policymaking capacity

(f) enhance the effective functioning of inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms to control small arms and light weapons, corruption, money-laundering and drugs

(g) disseminate, including through public awareness campaigns, the laws and implementing regulations on the trade, bearing, manufacture, use and possession of small arms and light weapons

(h) disseminate the laws and implementing regulations regarding civil and/or criminal penalties against corruption related to the manufacture, traffic, trade, possession and use of illicit small arms and light weapons

(i) prepare an annual report on the implementation of national laws and regulations on small arms and light weapons

(j) strengthen cooperation between States in the fight against corruption

(k) train officials to fight against corruption and crime

(l) cooperate with other States parties with a view to incorporating anti-corruption measures into national legislation

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) support capacity-building of the national bodies responsible for implementing legislation

(b) institute the exchange of information between the security agencies of States parties to enhance the fight against small arms and light weapons and improve security

Regulatory measures

(c) develop a guide to harmonizing national legislation on small arms and light weapons

(d) institute the exchange of information between State security agencies in order to strengthen the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and improve subregional security

(e) adopt and implement in States parties international standards on the establishment and functioning of national commissions on small arms and light weapons

Operational measures

(f) disseminate the Convention and its relevant provisions to States parties

(g) harmonize legal and administrative policies and practices against small arms and light weapons, drugs and money-laundering

(h) organize discussion sessions on threats to regional security

(i) provide technical assistance to States parties in drafting, revising and disseminating national legislation on small arms and light weapons in line with national and international obligations

(j) support training and awareness-raising activities for the relevant national and subregional actors on the fight against corruption related to the manufacture, traffic, trade, possession and use of illicit small arms and light weapons

(k) support dissemination of national legislation on small arms and light weapons

Chapter VIII. Institutional arrangements and implementation

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) create or build the capacity of the national body (national commission) responsible for coordinating and implementing the Convention in line with international standards

Regulatory measures

(b) if necessary, develop and adopt an act establishing the national commission

(c) create a national plan to control small arms and light weapons based on an impact study

Operational measures

(d) Provide financial support for the implementation of the Convention

(e) develop a strategy document for mobilizing resources

(f) create a budget line in the annual budget and provide material resources to the national commission

(g) train members of the national commission, the armed and security forces, and civil society organizations on issues related to small arms and light weapons

(h) conduct surveys and studies on the impact of small arms and light weapons on the security of the State and the population

(i) coordinate national forums to exchange views and raise awareness of issues relating to small arms and light weapons

(j) provide the ECCAS Secretariat with the financial, technical and human resources to implement the Convention

(k) submit an annual report to the ECCAS Secretariat on the implementation of the Convention

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Institutional measures

(a) create a unit on small arms and light weapons to work in coordination with the Secretariat of the Committee and States parties to implement the Convention

(b) establish (where they are not already in place) or build the capacity of national bodies (national commissions) responsible for coordinating implementation of the Convention

(c) create and launch the Group of Independent Experts

(d) formalize relationships with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the Committee of Central African Police Chiefs (subregional organization of police forces) and the World Customs Organization

Regulatory measures

(e) develop a resource mobilization strategy

Operational measures

(f) present, at a Committee meeting, a high-priority subregional programme to implement the Convention

(g) provide financial support for the implementation of the Convention

(h) recruit staff for the small arms and light weapons unit

(i) provide financial and material support to the national commissions

(j) support the training of members of national commissions, including on project planning and management

(k) support the establishment of a network of civil society organizations, provide them with material and financial support and organize training sessions for them

(l) organize meetings at which national commissions of States parties can share experiences

(m) create a programme to build the capacity of national commissions and civil society

(n) coordinate follow-up and evaluation visits to States parties

(o) coordinate regular meetings to support dialogue and coordination with civil society organizations

(p) mobilize the financial resources required to implement the Convention

(q) conduct informational visits within the United Nations system and to the African Union

(r) publish and disseminate information, studies and research on small arms and light weapons

(s) create a framework document to assist States parties in preparing annual reports on implementation

(t) prepare an annual report on implementation of the Convention

(u) provide the Group of Independent Experts with adequate financial and administrative resources

(v) encourage cooperation between national bodies

(w) cooperate with the group of experts

(x) map progress on the creation and functioning of national commissions

(y) promote the signing and ratification of the Convention by States parties

Chapter IX. General and final provisions

Implementation at the national level

States parties shall take the following actions:

Regulatory and operational measures

(a) sign, ratify, promulgate and implement the Convention

(b) mobilize civil society support for implementing and ensuring compliance with the Convention

Implementation at the subregional level

The ECCAS Secretariat shall take the following actions:

Operational measures

(a) devise a strategy for advocating the ratification and entry into force of the Convention

(b) conduct visits to advocate the signature, ratification and entry into force of the Convention

Functions of the depositary

In his capacity as depositary of the Convention, the Secretary-General of the United Nations shall ensure the safekeeping of this Convention, receive full powers as needed and any instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval and/or accession. He shall inform all States concerned of actions related to the Convention.